

crowded section. Slate smoke from "punks" and joss sticks gathered in a haze over streets where men with queued hair and silver coins tucked in their ears shuffled in sandals and loose-fitting robes.

A bright red bridge used to span Chinatown and afford access to the fancier homes on Rossie Hill. Oriental peddlers hauled laundry and vegetables over China Bridge until it was weakened by the fire of 1898 and was later replaced by a second, unpainted, bridge, used until 1954.

Parkites had little to do with Chinatown, but Chinese New Year was a city-wide celebration. Parents would take their children to see the gaudy decorations and receive treats of nuts, candies, and fireworks.

Chinese funerals were also occasions for children in the camp. Hired bandwagons would shrill with Oriental music and lead processions of mourners to the cemetery where local kiddies would watch from behind the fences as gifts of chickens, candies, and cakes were laid by the grave for the departing spirit. When the funeral was over, the children would feast and the Chinese could return the next day and be satisfied that the ghost had been appeased.

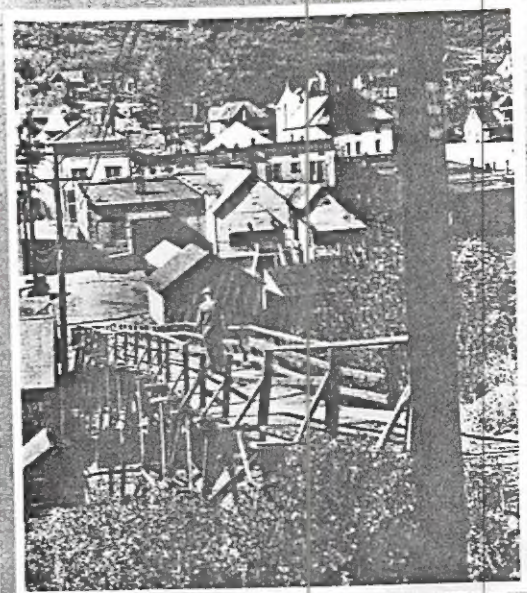
All in all, Parkites were diversified but undivided; they maintained law, built schools, and refused to surrender to disasters of snowslides, mine explosions, or even the tragic fire of 1898.

The fire started in the middle of a June night. An excited Chinese shrieked first warning, then a policeman signaled with three pistol shots followed by an alarm from the Marsac mill. It was never determined whether the blaze started in a room or the kitchen of the American Hotel, but a wind snaked flames down Main Street and fire soon threatened to consume the whole town.

Frantic women dashed their children to safety, then seized their belongings, while men blew up their own homes with dynamite in attempts to save their neighbors'. Ashheim's Store was considered a safe repository for valuables, but its tin roof collapsed into a brick shell; the Opera House was gutted; the *Park Record* office blazed with the flames of irreplaceable documents; Park Avenue, Rossie Hill, and Chinatown were demolished. No human lives were lost, but, in less than four hours, more than 200 businesses and homes were destroyed, 500 persons were homeless, scores of livestock were killed, and losses topped \$1,000,000. Fire departments from Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Coalville arrived to douse the ashes.

Money and supplies poured in from all over the country—shipped free of charge by the Union Pacific and D. & R.G. rail-

*"Diggings & Doings in Park City, Utah"*



*The second China Bridge (or Fourth Street Bridge) over Poison Creek.*



*Picnics in the surrounding canyons were popular with Parkites.*